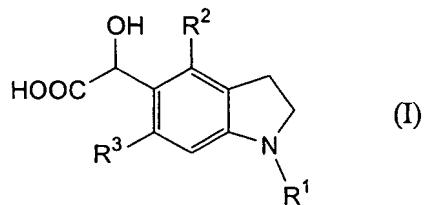


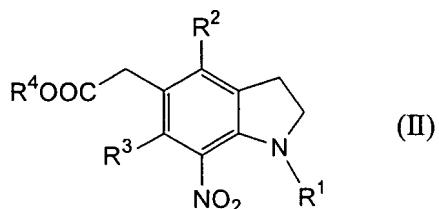
**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A synthetic intermediate of general formula (I)



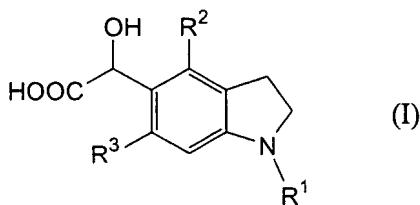
wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protective group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group; a salt or an amide derivative thereof.

2. A synthetic intermediate of general formula (II)

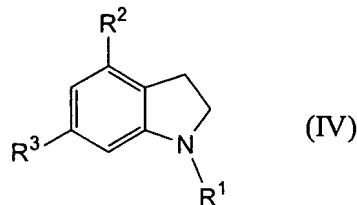


wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protective group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group, R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group for the carboxyl group; a salt or an amide derivative thereof.

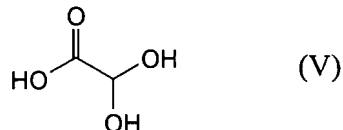
3. A process for the preparation of a synthetic intermediate of general formula (I)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protective group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group; or a salt thereof, which process comprises the reaction of a compound of general formula (IV)

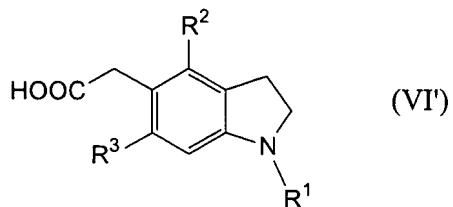


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the same meanings as given above; with a compound of general formula (V)

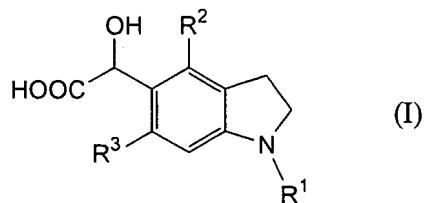


or a salt thereof.

4. A process for the preparation of a synthetic intermediate of general formula (VI')



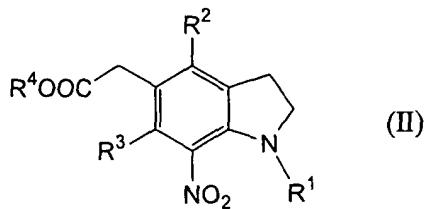
wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protective group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group; or a salt thereof, which process comprises the reduction of the hydroxyl group of a compound of general formula (I)



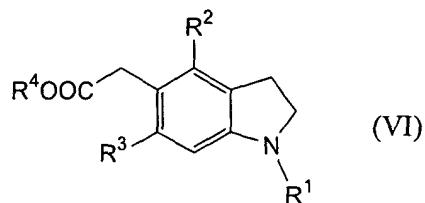
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the same meanings as given above; or a salt thereof by phosphorous acid and an alkali metal iodide.

5. A process for preparation according to claim 4 wherein the reduction is carried out in an organic acid.

6. A process for the preparation of a synthetic intermediate of general formula (II)

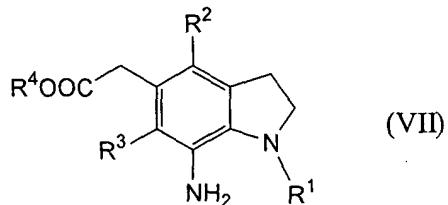


wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protective group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group, R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group for the carboxyl group; or a salt thereof, which process comprises the nitration of a compound of general formula (VI)

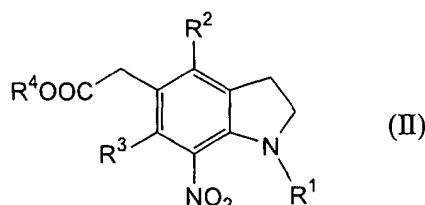


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> have the same meanings as given above; or a salt thereof.

7. A process for the preparation of a synthetic intermediate of general formula (VII)

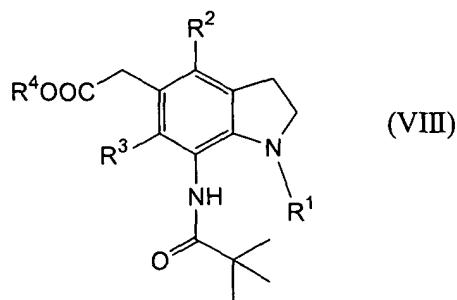


wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protective group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group, R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group for the carboxyl group; or a salt thereof, which process comprises the reduction of a compound of general formula (II)

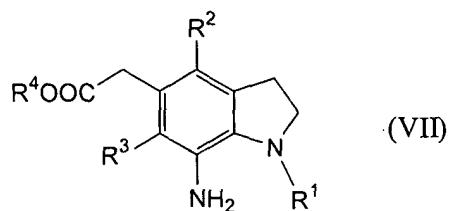


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> have the same meanings as given above; or a salt thereof.

8. A process for the preparation of a synthetic intermediate of general formula (VIII)

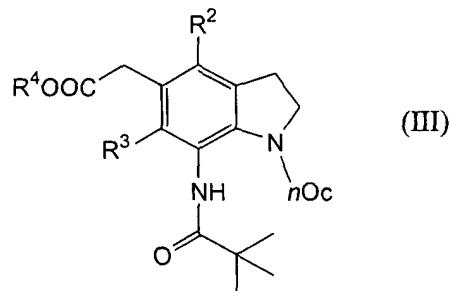


wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a protective group for the amino group,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group,  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group for the carboxyl group; or a salt thereof, which process comprises the pivaloylation of a compound of general formula (VII)

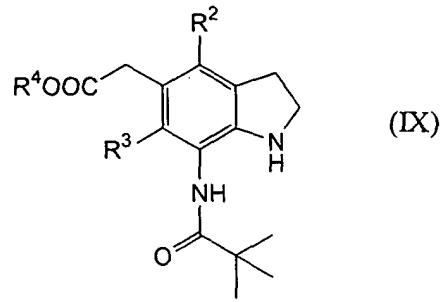


wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  have the same meanings as given above; or a salt thereof.

9. A process for the preparation of a synthetic intermediate of general formula (III)



wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are the same or different and each represents a lower alkyl group,  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group for the carboxyl group,  $n\text{Oc}$  represents an octyl group; or a salt thereof, which process comprises the octylation of a compound of general formula (IX)



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> have the same meanings as given above; or a salt thereof.

10. A process for preparation according to claim 9 wherein said process is carried out using xylene as a solvent.

11. A process for preparation according to claim 9 wherein said process is carried out using butyl acetate as a solvent.

12. A process for preparation according to any one of claims from 8 to 11 wherein said process is carried out using diisopropylethylamine as a base.